



# NEWS RELEASE

## Arizona House of Representatives

Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Speaker Mesnard Urges Democrats to Heed Governor Napolitano's Recommendation by Banning the Payment of Petition Circulators Per Signature

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17) today urged his Democratic colleagues to heed the recommendation of former Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano by passing [HB 2404](#), sponsored by Representative Vince Leach (R-11), and sending it to Governor Ducey.

As reported this week in the Yellow Sheet Report, Governor Janet Napolitano used her State of the State address in 2009 to advocate for a prohibition on paying petition circulators per signature.

She asked the legislature to “crack down on signature fraud by increasing the number of signatures to be examined, banning payment by signature, and registering paid circulators.”

While HB 2404, as introduced, would have addressed all three issues, it’s been amended to focus on the prohibition on paying petition circulators per signature.

**“I don’t recall Democrats accusing Governor Napolitano of attempting to weaken Arizonans’ constitutional rights or doing the bidding of outside groups when she suggested combatting fraud by banning the payment of petition circulators per signature,”** said Speaker Mesnard.

**“This effort isn’t about giving one party a leg up on the other or diluting the ability of Arizonans to make their own laws – this is about restoring integrity to the initiative process by rooting out fraud. I urge my Democratic colleagues to stop playing politics and make this a bipartisan effort to give Arizonans confidence in their initiative process again.”**

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